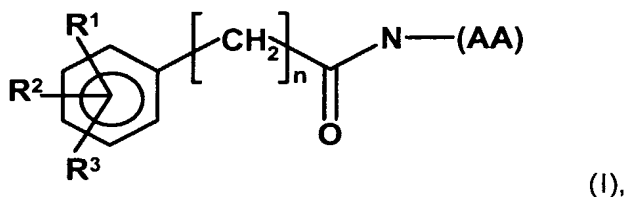


Patent claims:

1. Compound represented by general formula (I)



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen, OR^4 , C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, R^4 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_2 - C_6 alkenyl,

-N-(AA) represents the residue of an amino acid or of a peptide which is bonded over the N-terminus of the amino acid or the peptide and the peptide is composed of 2 to 6, that means 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, amino acids, wherein the C-terminus of the amino acid or the peptide is optionally esterified with a C_1 - C_{16} hydrocarbon moiety and n is an integer of 1 to 5.

2. Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen and R^3 is a residue -O- C_1 - C_6 alkyl.
3. Compound according to claim 1, characterized in that R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.
4. Compound according to any of claims 1-3 wherein $n = 3$.
5. Compound according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the C-terminus of the amino acid or the peptide is esterified with a C_1 - C_{16} alkyl residue.
6. Compound according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that -N-(AA) represents the residue of an amino acid selected from Glycine, α - or β -Alanine, Valine, Leucine, Isoleucine, Proline, Phenylalanine, Tryptophan, Methionine, Selenomethionine, Serine, Threonine, Cysteine, Hydroxyproline, Asparagin, Glutamine, Aspartic acid, Glutamic acid,

Lysine, Hydroxylysine, Histidine, Arginine, Ornithine, Citrulline, Taurine, Sarcosine and Statine, Norleucine, Norvaline, or 2-N-Methylnorleucine

7. Compound according to claim 6 where N-(AA) represents Hydroxyproline or an ester of Hydroxyproline.

8. Compound of claim 7 where N-(AA) is Hydroxyproline-ethylester.

9. Compound according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that -N-(AA) represents the residue of a dipeptide.

10. Compound according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that -N-(AA) represents the residue of Carnosine, Balenine, Anserine, Glycinhydroxyproline or an ester of any of the above dipeptides.

11. Compound according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that -N-(AA) represents the residue of a tripeptide.

12. Compound according to any of claims 1 to 11 having a calculated log POW of 0 - 6.

13. Composition comprising at least one compound according to any of claims 1 to 12 and a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.

14. Composition according to claim 13, characterized in that the composition is a topical composition.

15. Cosmetic composition according to claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the composition contains the compound of formula (I) in a concentration of 0.001 to 50 wt.-%, based on the weight of the composition.

16. Cosmetic composition according to claim 15, characterized in that the compound of formula (I) is present in a concentration of 0.01 to 1 wt.-%, based on the weight of the composition.

17. Use of a compound represented by general formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 12 for the preparation of a composition for providing a cosmetic effect.

18. Use according to claim 17, wherein the cosmetic effect is treatment or prophylaxis of wrinkles or dry skin or sensitive skin or any symptoms caused by negative developments of the physiological homeostasis of healthy skin, promotion of hair growth, protection from hair loss, a thickening of the epidermis, anti-acne, the inhibition of senescence of skin cells, prevention or treatment of photodamage, prevention or treatment of oxidative stress phenomena, prevention or treatment of cellulite, prevention or treatment of pigmentation disorders and/or even the skin tone, prevention and treatment of disturbances in ceramide and lipid synthesis, prevention of excess sebum production, reduction of activities of matrix metallo proteases or other proteases in the skin, treatment and prevention of inflammatory skin conditions including atopic eczema, polymorphic light eruption, psoriasis, vitiligo, prevention and treatment of itchy or irritated skin.